

Appln. No. 10/715,803  
Docket No. GP-303124/GM2-0075

# **REMARKS / ARGUMENTS**

Applicant has elected Species II, directed to the invention of Figures 9-12, with traverse, and submits that Claims 1-12 read on Species II.

However, Applicant respectfully traverses the Election / Restriction requirement for the following reasons.

The Examiner alleges that Figures 1-4 and 7-8 (understood by Applicant to be Figures 1-8), Figures 9-12, Figures 13-14, Figure 15, Figures 16-17, and Figure 18, are each directed to a patentably distinct species, and that none of the claims are generic.

In respectful disagreement with the Examiner, Applicant submits that independent Claim 1 reads on Species I, II, III, IV, V and VI, and is therefore generic to all of the claimed inventions.

Additionally, Applicant respectfully submits that the invention disclosed by Figures 1-8 (Species I) are not illustrative of a separate species, but are illustrative of a different level of detail relative to the invention disclosed by Figures 9-12 (Species II). Accordingly, and at least for this reason, restriction of the species identified as Species I and II (Figures 1-12), for examination purposes is improper.

In view of independent Claim 1 and Species I, Applicant submits that Claim 1 reads on Species I as follows:

1. A self locking apparatus (8) comprising:
  - a housing (10);
  - a load initiating element (14) located within the housing (10);
  - a spring (22) located adjacent to the load initiating element (14), and configured to expand in compression against the housing (10); and
  - wherein the load initiating element (14) and spring (22) are slideable within the housing (10) until the spring (22) is loaded into a self locking mode.

Appl. No. 10/715,803  
Docket No. GP-303124/GM2-0075

In view of independent Claim 1 and Species II, Applicant submits that Claim 1 reads on Species II as follows:

1. A self locking apparatus (40) comprising:
  - a housing (10);
  - a load initiating element (14) located within the housing (10);
  - a spring (22) located adjacent to the load initiating element (14), and configured to expand in compression against the housing (10); and
- wherein the load initiating element (14) and spring (22) are slideable within the housing (10) until the spring (22) is loaded into a self locking mode.

In view of independent Claim 1 and Species III, Applicant submits that Claim 1 reads on Species III as follows:

1. A self locking apparatus (70) comprising:
  - a housing (10);
  - a load initiating element (82) located within the housing (10);
  - a spring (54, 42, 58, 62) located adjacent to the load initiating element (82), and configured to expand in compression against the housing (10); and
- wherein the load initiating element (82) and spring (54, 42, 58, 62) are slideable within the housing (10) until the spring (54, 42, 58, 62) is loaded into a self locking mode.

In view of independent Claim 1 and Species IV, Applicant submits that Claim 1 reads on Species IV as follows:

1. A self locking apparatus (Figure 15) comprising:
  - a housing (10);
  - a load initiating element (14) located within the housing (10);
  - a spring (90, 94) located adjacent to the load initiating element (14), and configured to expand in compression against the housing (10); and
- wherein the load initiating element (14) and spring (90, 94) are slideable within

Appn. No. 10/715,803  
Docket No. GP-303124/GM2-0075

the housing (10) until the spring (90, 94) is loaded into a self locking mode.

In view of independent Claim 1 and Species V, Applicant submits that Claim 1 reads on Species V as follows:

1. A self locking apparatus (Figure 17) comprising:
  - a housing (10);
  - a load initiating element (110) located within the housing (10);
  - a spring (22) located adjacent to the load initiating element (110), and configured to expand in compression against the housing (10); andwherein the load initiating element (110) and spring (22) are slideable within the housing (10) until the spring (22) is loaded into a self locking mode.

In view of independent Claim 1 and Species VI, Applicant submits that Claim 1 reads on Species VI as follows:

1. A self locking apparatus (Figure 18) comprising:
  - a housing (10);
  - a load initiating element (118) located within the housing (10);
  - a spring (22) located adjacent to the load initiating element (118), and configured to expand in compression against the housing (10); andwherein the load initiating element (118) and spring (22) are slideable within the housing (10) until the spring (22) is loaded into a self locking mode.

In view of Claim 1 being both independent and directed to all Species I-VI, Figures 1-18 collectively, and being illustrative of different levels of detail of the claimed invention, Applicant respectfully submits that a restriction of the species identified as Species I-VI, and particularly to the restriction of the species identified as Species I and II, for examination purposes is improper.

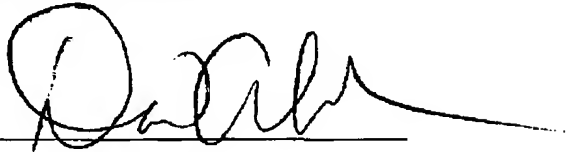
Appln. No. 10/715,803  
Docket No. GP-303124/GM2-0075

For at least this reason, this Restriction Requirement is wholeheartedly traversed, and removal of the Requirement, at least with respect to the improper groupings noted above, is respectfully requested.

Consideration and allowance of these claims are respectfully requested. The foregoing is believed to be fully responsive to this office action.

If there are any charges with respect to this amendment, or otherwise, please charge them to Deposit Account No. 06-1130 maintained by applicant's attorneys.

Respectfully submitted,  
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